

# Spring Mill State Park

All programs are free unless otherwise noted.

Programs at all our state parks and reservoirs: [www.interpretiveservices.in.gov/programs](http://www.interpretiveservices.in.gov/programs)

<b>Nature Center</b> <i>Open Daily 10am-5pm</i>	<b>Virgil I. Grissom Memorial</b> <i>Open Daily 8:30am-4pm</i>
<b>Pioneer Village</b> <i>Sat 11a-7p, Sun 11a-5p, Mon-Thu 9a-5p, Fri 9a-7p</i>	<b>Mountain Bike Rental</b> <i>Open Daily; Hours Vary Check out bikes at Campstore \$5/hour or \$20/day</i>
<b>Virgil I. Grissom Memorial</b> <i>Open Daily 8:30am-4pm</i>	<b>Campground Hayrides</b> <i>Wednesday, Friday, Saturday 6pm, 7pm, 8pm; \$3/person Register at Campstore</i>
<b>Twin Caves Boat Tours</b> <i>Open Daily 9am-5pm \$3/adult, \$1/child (ages 3-11)</i>	

**Please arrive on time for scheduled programs.**  
*Spring Mill State Park follows Eastern Daylight Time.*

**Public programs are designed for individuals and families.**  
If you will be bringing an organized group, contact the Nature Center in advance for a copy of our program catalogue and schedule a private program just for your group. (812) 849-4129

**Get advance notice of special events and programs!**  
Sign up for our email list at the Nature Center, Pioneer Village Grist Mill, Spring Mill Inn, or email [springmillstatepark-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:springmillstatepark-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

**HP-HP Healthy Parks – Healthy People**  
Get “INShape” with us, and discover what it takes to keep a state park healthy.



LOOK FOR THE ROOF KOO  
WATCH FOR THE ROOF KOO  
STAY FOR THE ROOF KOO  
STAY FOR THE ROOF KOO

June 2008

Sunday, June 1

- 11:00am

**Pinecone Pete** – Learn how to identify the two main kinds of pinecones found at Spring Mill and make your own little “pinecone person” to take home. Nature Center Amphitheater (45 min).
- 11:30am

**Sawmill Demonstration** - See how lumber was cut in the 1800s using the power of water. Pioneer Village, Grist Mill (15 min).
- 12p-1:30p

**Leather Craft** – Drop by to discover how to decorate leather with a technique called tooling as you create a personalized bookmark. Pioneer Village, Leather Shop.
- 2:00pm

**Natural Healers** – Take a stroll through Donaldson Woods (Indiana’s premier example of virgin forest!) while we explore how trees heal their wounds – and what scars are left behind. Meet at Twin Caves parking lot (45 min). **HP-HP**
- 2:30pm

**Sawmill Demonstration** - See how lumber was cut in the 1800s using the power of water. Pioneer Village, Grist Mill (15 min).



Come see the new exhibits added to the Nature Center this past winter/spring!

## Monday, June 2

- 1:30pm Embroidery 101** – Pioneer women relied on many different needlecrafts to create and decorate everyday objects. In this hands-on program, you'll learn the basic stitches required for one type of needlecraft – embroidery. Pioneer Village, Sheek's/Weaver's Summer Kitchen (1 hr).
- 4:00pm Herptile Hoppers** – What's the difference between a frog and a toad? Find out as you meet one of each up close. Nature Center Amphitheater (45 min).

## Tuesday, June 3

- 12:00pm Snake Stumpers** – Can you separate snake fact from fiction? Find out as you meet three of our resident snakes. Nature Center Amphitheater (45 min).

## Wednesday, June 4

- 10:30am Meet your new pet... rock** – Learn about the types of rock found in this area and then design your own "pet rock" to take home. Nature Center Amphitheater (45 min).
- 2:00pm A Day in the Life of a Potter** – Learn about the role a potter in a pioneer community while watching how household items are made on the wheel. Pioneer Village, Pottery Shop (45 min).

Sit in reverie and watch the changing color of the waves that break upon the idle seashore of the mind. ~Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

## Thursday, June 5



- 3:15pm Mystery Braid** – Using the "mystery braid" technique, participants will braid their own keychain out of leather. Pioneer Village, Leather Shop (30 min).
- 8:00pm Creative Campfire** – Join us around the campfire this evening and make your own handkerchief doll to take home. *Cost is \$1/person; supplies are limited to 20 participants (first-come, first-served).* Campground Amphitheater, next to site #108 (45min).

## Friday, June 6

- 10:30am Under the Mill** – Have you ever *really* wanted to know how the Mill is able to run on water-power alone? During this program, you'll get a behind the scenes peak at the gears and equipment in the Gristmill's basement. Pioneer Village, Gristmill (1<sup>st</sup> floor) (15 min).
- 5:30pm From Mud to Mugs** – Pioneer potters focused on making functional items for use around the home. The Village Potter will demonstrate, from start to finish, how a mug was thrown on the wheel. Pioneer Village, Pottery Shop (30 min).





## Saturday, June 7

- 11:30am Sawmill Demonstration** - See how lumber was cut in the 1800s using the power of water. Pioneer Village, Grist Mill (15 min).
- 12p-1p Creature Feature: Snakes** – Have you ever touched a snake?  The naturalist will give you the opportunity to do just that while sharing information about our native reptiles. Drop by the Nature Center for this unique opportunity. **HP-HP**
- 2:30pm Sawmill Demonstration** - See how lumber was cut in the 1800s using the power of water. Pioneer Village, Grist Mill (15 min).
- 4:00pm Cord-Making** – Using warp string, you'll make a length of cording long enough for a bracelet while learning about pioneer uses for cord. Pioneer Village, Leather Shop (30 min).
- 5p-6p You Nailed It** – Nails were a valuable commodity in the 1800s. Drop by and watch as the Village Blacksmith demonstrates how they were made. Pioneer Village, Blacksmith Shop.
- 8p-9:30p What is it?** – See if you can figure out what our “mystery items” were used for in the 1800s. Watch for the roving naturalist in the Campground. 

*People from a planet without flowers  
would think we must be mad with joy the  
whole time to have such things about us.*

*Iris Murdoch, A Fairly Honourable Defeat*



## Sunday, June 8

- 11:30am Sawmill Demonstration** - See how lumber was cut in the 1800s using the power of water. Pioneer Village, Grist Mill (15 min).
- 1:00pm Edible Experience** – Discover a few plants that you can eat and learn how to properly identify and prepare them. We may even do a little taste-testing! Meet in the Oak Ridge Shelter parking lot (45 min). 
- 2:30pm Sawmill Demonstration** - See how lumber was cut in the 1800s using the power of water. Pioneer Village, Grist Mill (15 min).
- 3:30pm Have You Lost Your Marbles?** – No worries! You can make your own new set of marbles at this program. Marbles were a popular toy among children of the 1860s and, after making your own set, you'll learn how to play. ***Cost is \$3/person; limited to 10 people. Pre-register at the Mercantile, beginning at 11am, until all the slots are full.*** Pioneer Village, Pottery Shop (45 min). 

## Monday, June 9

- 11:00am Pioneer Playthings** – Discover the different types of toys that children played with in the 1800s and make your own “whiz-gig” to take home. Pioneer Village, Meeting House (30 min).

## Tuesday, June 10

- 11:00am Bug Hotel** – Make a simple insect collection container, perfect for temporary stays by six-legged guests, and learn how to “decorate” it for an insect visitor. Nature Center Amphitheater (45 min). 
- 2:00pm Insect Investigators** – Join us as we probe the lake edge for dragonflies, damselflies, and other insects hiding in the grass. *If you made a bug hotel earlier today, bring it with you to this program!* Meet on the back patio of the Nature Center (30 min). 

## Wednesday, June 11

**2:30pm**     **Clay Time** – Discover where the 1800s village potter likely got his clay and how he made it usable, while sculpting your own miniature art piece out of self-hardening clay. *Cost is \$2/person; limited to 10 people (first-come, first-served).* Pioneer Village, Pottery Shop (45 min).

## Thursday, June 12

**10:30am**     **Micro Hike: Lake Edge** – On a standard hike, most people miss the small (and tiny!) stuff. Not on this “hike!” Using magnifying glasses, we’ll discover “hidden” wonders along the trail. Although we won’t be traveling very far, you’ll be amazed at how much you’ll see! People of all ages will enjoy this program; young children will particularly enjoy it. Meet on the back patio of the Nature Center (45 min).



**1:00pm**     **Little Stinkers** – Learn about the striped skunk, which begin to roam our campgrounds and picnic areas as the sun sets, and make a cute skunk craft to take home. Nature Center, Outdoor Amphitheater (45 min).

**8p-9p**     **Dress Like a Pioneer** – Discover what elements go into proper 1860s attire for a woman, and try on a few items to see how they look. Watch for the roving naturalist in the Campground.



## Friday, June 13

**11:00am**     **Dandy Dandelions** – Children will love this program that explores songs, riddles, and fun activities associated with the dandelion. Nature Center, Outdoor Amphitheater (45 min).

**3-5pm**     **Creature Creation** – Drop by to design and name a new member of the animal kingdom! A great craft for younger children. Campground Playground (by the entrance to the primitive camping area).

## Saturday, June 14

**11:30am**     **Sawmill Demonstration** - See how lumber was cut in the 1800s using the power of water. Pioneer Village, Grist Mill (15 min).

**12:00pm**     **Cornhusk Dolls** – Children in the 1800s played with dolls too, but their dolls often looked a little different from modern versions. Learn to make a miniature cornhusk doll, similar to those played with by pioneer children. Pioneer Village, Upper Residence (45 min).

**2:30pm**     **Sawmill Demonstration** - See how lumber was cut in the 1800s using the power of water. Pioneer Village, Grist Mill (15 min).

**4:00pm**     **Become Johnny Appleseed!** – Munch on a delicious apple while learning how seeds germinate, then plant your apple’s seeds to take home. With a little luck, and some nurturing, you’ll have your own apple tree by next spring! *Donations accepted to help cover supply costs.* Campground Amphitheater, next to site #108 (1 hr).




**5:30pm**     **Anything’s Possible** – Learn about the different uses that pioneers had for a “possibles” bag and make a miniature one to take home. Pioneer Village, Leather Shop (45 min).


**9:00pm**     **Nature’s Silly Side** – Learn about the unusual, the unique, and the just plain silly side of nature during this entertaining campfire program. *Bench seating is limited; you may wish to bring your own chair/blankets.* Campground Amphitheater, next to site #108 (45 min).

Sometimes, in a summer morning, having taken my accustomed bath, I sat in my sunny doorway from sunrise till noon, rapt in reverie. -Henry David Thoreau

## Sunday, June 15

**11:30am**  **Micro Hike: Garden Delights** – On a standard hike, most people miss the small (and tiny!) stuff. Not on this “hike!” Using magnifying glasses, we’ll discover “hidden” wonders along the trail. Although we won’t be traveling very far, you’ll be amazed at how much you’ll see! People of all ages will enjoy this program; young children will particularly enjoy it. Meet at the Formal Garden in the Pioneer Village (45 min).

**11:30am** **Sawmill Demonstration** - See how lumber was cut in the 1800s using the power of water. Pioneer Village, Grist Mill (15 min).

**2-4pm**  **The Masked Bandit** – Drop to create a raccoon mask, learn some cool facts about this animal, and discover why it’s a bad idea to feed these animals. Concession Stand.

**2:30pm** **Sawmill Demonstration** - See how lumber was cut in the 1800s using the power of water. Pioneer Village, Grist Mill (15 min).

## Monday, June 16

**2:00pm** **Heat It Up** – The Village Blacksmith will discuss how pioneers made their own charcoal – and why 1800s blacksmiths used charcoal rather than coal. Pioneer Village, Blacksmith Shop (40 min).


## Tuesday, June 17

**3:30pm** **Don’t “Flinch!”** – Learn how animals respond to danger by playing a fun game that will test your own instincts. Concession Stand (45 min).

**To poke a wood fire is more solid enjoyment than almost anything else in the world. ~Charles Dudley Warner**


## Wednesday, June 18

**4:30pm** **“Cookie” Counting** – You won’t be able to eat these “cookies,” but you will be able to learn a lot from them. Learn how to age trees by their rings and read the wood for stories of drought, insects, and other events. Nature Center, Outdoor Amphitheater (45 min).

**9:30pm**  **Full Moon Hike** – Join us for an evening stroll and listen to stories, legends, and facts about our lunar “nightlight” as we watch for a full moon to rise over Spring Mill Lake. *Bring a flashlight.* Meet next to Sycamore Shelter (1 hr).

## Thursday, June 19


**11:00am** **Pressed Plants** – Capture the image of a summer plant in self-hardening clay. *Cost is \$2/person; limited to 10 people (first-come, first-served).* Pioneer Village, Pottery Shop (30 min).

**2:30pm**  **Pioneers in the Wilderness** – Explore the differences between modern and pioneer views on natural resources and learn how these attitudes have helped shape our state. Nature Center, Outdoor Amphitheater (30 min).


## Friday, June 20

**10:30am** **Pressed and Pretty** – Explore some of the techniques that pioneers used to preserve flowers, with a focus of “pressing,” and learn how to make your own flower press. Pioneer Village, Garden Cabin (45 min).

**3:30pm** **Plane as Day** – Check out our collection of historic planes, used by woodworkers in the 1800s, and discover how they added a decorative element to projects. Pioneer Village, Carpenter Shop (30 min).

**9:00pm**  **Pioneer Village Living History Stroll** - Who were the people who lived in Spring Mill Village during the 1800s? Hear of their history, stories, and the rise and fall of village. *Donations accepted.* Meet at Concession Stand (1 hr).


## Saturday, June 21

 **11:00am Pulp to Paper** – Design and create your own sheet of homemade stationery using plant material and recycled paper! **Limited to 10 participants; cost is \$1/person.** Sign up at the Nature Center on Friday, June 20; if there are still available spots; walk-ins will be accepted Saturday prior to the start of the program. **You must be able to return on Sunday morning to pick up your paper.** Nature Center Amphitheater (1 hr).

**11a-5p Wood Carving Demonstration** – Experienced woodcarvers from Louisville will be in the Village today to demonstrate their skills. Pioneer Village, Tavern.

**11:30am Sawmill Demonstration** - See how lumber was cut in the 1800s using the power of water. Pioneer Village, Grist Mill (15 min).

**2:30pm Sawmill Demonstration** - See how lumber was cut in the 1800s using the power of water. Pioneer Village, Grist Mill (15 min).

 **3:00pm Fungus Among Us** – On this hike, we'll explore the role that fungus plays in a forest ecosystem. Join us on a search for mushrooms and other fungus! Meet at Twin Caves parking lot (45 min). **HP-HP**


**4:00pm Pincushion Basket** – With hands-on assistance, you'll make your own pincushion basket from scratch – from weaving the basket to creating the fabric insert. The finished basket will be approx. 4" wide and 1" high. Cost is \$2/person; limited to 15 people. Advance sign up available at the Garden Cabin from 11am-3:30pm. Pioneer Village, Meeting House (2 hr 30 min).

**9:30pm StoneBelt Stargazers' Spring Star Party** – Get a whole new perspective on the night sky when you view it through a telescope! The Stargazers will bring their telescopes to share - and point out some of the wonders of the night. The evening will open with an astronomy presentation as we wait for the sky to get dark enough for viewing. *We highly suggest bringing lawn chairs or a blanket to sit on (and your own binoculars or telescope, if you have one).* Swimming Pool parking lot (2 hr).


## Sunday, June 22

**11:30am Sawmill Demonstration** - See how lumber was cut in the 1800s using the power of water. Pioneer Village, Grist Mill (15 min).

**12:00pm Braids** – Use a simple braiding technique to make a bookmark or bracelet out of a natural material called jute. Pioneer Village, Leather Shop (30 min).

 **1:00pm Let's Fly a Kite!** – Work together as a family, or individually, to construct your own kite! You'll also learn about the power of the wind and how kites are able to fly. Wind willing, we'll conclude with a kite-flying competition. Supplies are limited to 15 kits, first-come, first-served. Cost is \$2/kit. Sycamore Field (east of Sycamore Shelter), look for the naturalist along the edge of the field (60-90 min).

**2:30pm Sawmill Demonstration** - See how lumber was cut in the 1800s using the power of water. Pioneer Village, Grist Mill (15 min).

 **3:00pm Ruins of the Past** – Join us on a hike to see two historic lime kilns and an abandoned quarry that date back to the 1890s. You'll learn about their use and the role they played in the history of Spring Mill Village. Meet on the front patio of the Nature Center (45 min).

## Monday, June 23

**11:00am Quilting Bee** – Learn the basics of quilting as you make your own four-patch quilt block for a coaster. Pioneer Village, Meeting House (1 hr).

**4:00pm Beans, Beans** – Discover why beans were an important part of the pioneer diet and create a piece of "bean art" to take home. Nature Center, Outdoor Amphitheater (30 min).

## Tuesday, June 24

**11:00am** **Micro Hike: Shawnee Cottage** – On a standard hike, most people miss the small (and tiny!) stuff. Not on this “hike!” Using magnifying glasses, we’ll discover “hidden” wonders along the trail. Although we won’t be traveling very far, you’ll be amazed at how much you’ll see! People of all ages will enjoy this program, and it’s particularly good for young children. Meet at Donaldson Shelter (45 min).



**1:30pm** **Mosquito!** – Odds are pretty good that you’ve had a close encounter with a mosquito this summer... explore the bad, and the good (yes, there is some), about this buzzing bother. Nature Center Amphitheater (30 min). **HP-HP**



**8:00pm** **Sam Bass: An Outlaw’s Story** – Gather around the campfire to hear the story of 1800s outlaw, Sam Bass, and his ties to southern Indiana. Campground Amphitheater, next to site #108 (30-45 min).

## Wednesday, June 25

**12:30pm** **First Aid 101** – Learn the proper way to clean and care for summer’s bumps and scratches, and discover how to recognize signs of heat stroke and other common warm weather ailments. Nature Center Amphitheater (45 min). **HP-HP**

**3:30pm** **What is that?** – Join us on a plant and tree identification hike through Donaldson Woods – one of only a few sections of virgin (never logged) forest in Indiana. Meet at Twin Caves parking lot (1 hr). **HP-HP**



Teaching a child not to step on a caterpillar is as valuable to the child as it is to the caterpillar. ~Bradley Millar

To find the universal elements enough; to find the air and the water exhilarating; to be refreshed by a morning walk or an evening saunter... to be thrilled by the stars at night; to be elated over a bird's nest or a wildflower in spring - these are some of the rewards of the simple life.

- John Burroughs -

## Thursday, June 26

**11:30am** **Flax Breaker** – Discover how a “flax breaker” works and learn about some of the things made from flax (a natural fiber). Pioneer Village, Gristmill (1<sup>st</sup> floor) (15 min).

**1:00pm** **Soap-making Workshop** – Participants will explore different types of soap and the techniques used to make them, learn how the pioneers made theirs from scratch, and make two full-sized bars of glycerin soap to take home. Cost is \$10/person; limited to 10 people. Pre-registration is required by Sunday, June 22 to the Park Office (812-849-4129). Meet at the Pioneer Village, Lower Residence – Summer Kitchen.



## Friday, June 27

**11:00am** **Write Me a Letter... in Natural Ink** – Discover how you can make your own ink from natural materials, explore what pens looked like in the 1800s, and write a note or draw a picture using some “berry ink.” Pioneer Village, Sheek’s/Weaver’s Summer Kitchen (1 hr).



**3:00pm** **Fire in the Forge** – Learn about the history of blacksmithing as the Village Blacksmith demonstrates how to forge a campfire tripod. Pioneer Village, Blacksmith Shop (30 min).

## Saturday, June 28

**11:30am Sawmill Demonstration** - See how lumber was cut in the 1800s using the power of water. Pioneer Village, Grist Mill (15 min).

**1:00pm Beaded Butterflies** – Make a cute beaded butterfly while learning which types of real butterflies you’re likely to see at Spring Mill. *Cost is \$1/person; limited to 30 participants (first-come, first-served). Check out the example craft on display at the Nature Center.* Nature Center Amphitheater (45 min).



**2:30pm Sawmill Demonstration** - See how lumber was cut in the 1800s using the power of water. Pioneer Village, Grist Mill (15 min).

**3:00pm Treasure Hunt Sneak Peek** – Want to get a leg up on your competition for the Campground Treasure Hunt? We’ll give you some valuable hints and information that will help you solve some of the treasure hunt clues. Campground Amphitheater, next to site #108 (45 min).

**4p-5p/7p Campground Treasure Hunt** – Can you follow the clues and navigate your way around the campground to locate the hidden treasure? Treasure maps and instructions will be handed out at the Campground Amphitheater (next to site #108) from 4pm-5pm. *Treasure hunters will have until 7pm to complete their search.* While you’re welcome to make a solo attempt, we recommend working together with family or friends.



**5:30pm A Pioneer Family** – Listen to the story of the Sheek family... a pioneer family in southern Indiana. Pioneer Village, Sheek’s/Weaver’s Cabin (30 min).

**8:30pm Leave No Trace** - Join Bill Houk, a Leave No Trace Master Educator, for a hands-on workshop based on seven principles that every outdoor-lover should know! Leave No Trace is a national and international program designed to train those who enjoy the outdoors to reduce and prevent their impact on the natural world. *Bench seating is limited; you may wish to bring your own blanket/chairs.* Campground Amphitheater (next to site #108) (1 hr). **HP-HP**

## Sunday, June 29

**10:30am Down to Donaldson** – Join us for a guided hike to and through the dry side of Donaldson Cave. Cave salamanders, bats, cave spiders, frogs, and cave crickets are some of the animals we might be lucky enough to catch. Bring a flashlight, wear good shoes, and expect to get a little muddy. Meet next to the bulletin board in the Donaldson Picnic Area parking lot (1 hr).



**11:30am Sawmill Demonstration** - See how lumber was cut in the 1800s using the power of water. Pioneer Village, Grist Mill (15 min).

**1:30pm Little Stinkers** – Explore the life of the striped skunk, a frequent evening visitor to the campground, and make a cute skunk craft to take home. Nature Center Amphitheater (30 min).



**2:30pm Sawmill Demonstration** - See how lumber was cut in the 1800s using the power of water. Pioneer Village, Grist Mill (15 min).

**3:15pm Love Knots** – Learn about the symbolism behind wheat-weavings and construct your own “love knot” out of wheat. Pioneer Village, Upper Residence (45 min).

## Monday, June 30

**1:00pm Micro Hike: Forest Edge** – On a standard hike, most people miss the small (and tiny!) stuff. Not on this “hike!” Using magnifying glasses, we’ll discover “hidden” wonders along the trail. Although we won’t be traveling very far, you’ll be amazed at how much you’ll see! People of all ages will enjoy this program, and it’s particularly good for young children. Meet at the Nature Center Amphitheater (45 min). **HP-HP**



**3p-4p A Hankie to Hold** – Drop by and make your own “hankie doll,” a toy played with in pioneer days. Pioneer Village, Sheek’s/Weaver’s Summer Kitchen.